



Advocates for people with intellectual disabilities
and related developmental disabilities

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March 18, 2010

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Testimony before the Judiciary Committee

**H. B. No. 5380 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE SEXUAL
ASSAULT OF PERSONS PLACED OR TREATED UNDER THE
DIRECTION OF THE COMMISSIONER OF DEVELOPMENTAL
SERVICES.**

by

Leslie Simoes, Assistant Executive Director/The Arc of Connecticut

**Senator McDonald, Representative Lawlor, and Members of the Judiciary
Committee:**

I am Leslie Simoes, Assistant Executive Director of The Arc of Connecticut, a 58-year-old statewide advocacy organization for individuals with intellectual disabilities and their families. We have 23 local chapters that provide supports, services, and advocacy for people with intellectual disabilities throughout Connecticut.

**I am here today to testify in favor of H. B. No. 5380 (RAISED) AN ACT
CONCERNING THE SEXUAL ASSAULT OF PERSONS PLACED
OR TREATED UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE
COMMISSIONER OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES.**

The Arc is in full support of this bill and the protections it will afford vulnerable persons who may not have the power to speak for themselves.

Power and trust are both very important components of any relationship and when that trust is utterly violated and individual power is entirely taken away, such as in the case of a sexual assault – it has devastating consequences for anyone. Now imagine if you were unable to communicate that violation to another person or not be able to get the help and protections you desperately deserve?

The Arc/Connecticut, Inc. Member Chapters: Futures, Inc., Middletown / Greater Enfield Arc / Family Options, Watertown / The Arc of Farmington Valley / Friends of New Milford, Inc. / The Arc of Litchfield County / LOV-Arc, Westbrook / MARC, Inc., Manchester / MARC: Community Resources, Portland / The Arc of Meriden-Wallingford / The Arc of Greater New Haven / The Arc of New London County / Options, Unlimited / The Arc of Plainville / The Arc of Quinebaug Valley / SARAH Inc., Guilford / SARAH Seneca Residential Services / SARAH Tuxis Residential Services / STAR, Norwalk / The Arc of Southington / Tri County Arc, Columbia / Waterbury Arc / WeCAHR, Danbury

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Please understand that a person in this type of power position with a person with a disability would, in most cases, also have the power over the person's ability to get help for themselves, their living situations, control over their money and control over the very meaningful things in life that you and I take for granted. Protection from abuse of this power for individuals with disability is a necessity and it is the right thing to do.

The Arc of Connecticut urges this Committee to vote favorably on this extremely important and needed Bill.

Thank you for opportunity to testify before you today.